

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Original): A method for remotely authenticating an asset, comprising:
associating a unique identification tag with the asset;
reading identifying information from the unique identification tag at a first location;
sending the identifying information from the first location to a remote location;
verifying authenticity of the asset at the remote location based on the identifying information.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the asset is selected from a set comprising a car, a truck, a recreational vehicle, a boat, a motorcycle, construction equipment, farm equipment, manufacturing equipment, containerized freight, art, antiques, and collectibles.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the step of verifying includes querying a database based on the identifying information.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising sending information identifying the first location to the remote location and wherein the step of verifying authenticity is partially based on the information identifying the location.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the unique identification tag includes a bar code and the step of reading is performed with a bar code reader.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the unique identification tag includes a radio frequency identification chip and the step of reading is performed with an interrogator.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1 wherein the steps of reading and sending are required by a financier to be performed by a financee to verify that the financee possesses the asset.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 7 wherein the asset is a vehicle and the financee is a vehicle dealer.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1 further comprising acquiring additional information associated with the asset, sending the additional information from the first location to the remote location, and verifying a characteristic of the asset based on the additional information.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein the additional information includes a location of the asset.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein the additional information includes video of the asset.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 9 wherein the steps of reading and acquiring are required by a financier to be performed by a financee.

Claim 13 (Original): A method for a first party to verify compliance by a second party with terms of an agreement related to an asset, comprising:

associating a unique identification tag with the asset;

requiring the second party to permit

- (a) reading identifying information from the unique identification tag;
- (b) sending the identifying information to the first party;

verifying by the first party that the asset is authentic at least partially based on the identifying information received from the second party.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 13 wherein the step of requiring further includes

- (c) acquiring secondary information associated with the asset and
- (d) sending the secondary information to the first party; and

the method further comprising verifying the second party is in compliance with a term of the agreement at least partially based on the secondary information.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14 wherein the secondary information includes location information.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 14 wherein the secondary information includes at least one video image.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 13 wherein the first party is a financier and the second party is a financee.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 13 wherein the asset is a vehicle and the second party is a dealer.

Claim 19 (Original): A system for remote verification comprising:
an asset;
an identification tag adapted to be secured to the asset, said identification tag containing a unique identifier associated with the asset;
a reader for reading the unique identifier of the identification tag;
a server;
a communications link between the server and the reader;
a database queryable by the server that associates the asset with the identification tag for remote verification.

Claim 20 (Original): The system of claim 19 wherein the identification tag is secured to the asset with a strap and a lock.

Claim 21 (Original): The system of claim 19 wherein the asset is a vehicle.

Claim 22 (Original): The system of claim 19 wherein the identification tag includes at least one of a barcode, an invisible bar code, and a radio frequency identification transmitter.

Claim 23 (Original): The system of claim 19 further comprising an agreement between a first party and a second party, relating to the asset wherein the second party agrees to send the unique identifier of the identification tag over the communications link to the server for remote verification.

Claim 24 (Original): An apparatus for acquiring identification information from an identification tag secured to an asset, the apparatus comprising:
a housing having a single form factor;
a processor disposed within the housing;
a memory operatively connected to the processor;
a display operatively connected to the processor;
a reader adapted to read the identification tag.

Claim 25 (Original): The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the reader is a bar code reader.

Claim 25-26 (Currently amended): The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the reader is an interrogator.

Claim 27 (Original): The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the reader is a bar code reader and further comprising an interrogator operatively connected to the processor.

Claim 28 (Original): An apparatus for use with a PDA for acquiring information from an identification tag associated with an asset, the apparatus comprising:
a sled housing adapted for docking with the PDA;
a processor disposed within the sled housing;
a memory operatively connected to the processor;
a display operatively connected to the processor;

a bar code reader integrated into the sled housing, the bar code reader operatively connected to the processor.

Claim 29 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising an interrogator operatively connected to the processor.

Claim 30 (Original): The apparatus of claim 28 further comprising a GPS receiver operatively connected to the processor.

Claim 31 (Original): A method for verifying compliance with an agreement associated with an asset comprising:

attaching an identification tag to the asset;
electronically reading the identification tag to provide identification information;
encoding the identification information to provide encoded information;
sending the encoded information to a remote location;
comparing at the remote location the identification information present in the encoded information with expected identification information;
determining that a party to the agreement is complying or not complying with the agreement at least partially based on the step of comparing.

Claim 32 (Original): The method of claim 31 wherein the identification tag is a radio frequency identification tag.

Claim 33 (Original): The method of claim 32 wherein the identification tag further includes a bar code.

Claim 34 (Original): The method of claim 31 wherein the asset is a vehicle.

Claim 35 (Original): The method of claim 31 wherein the agreement is a finance agreement between a vehicle dealer and a financial institution.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 31 wherein the step of encoding the identification information includes creating a hash.

Claim 37 (New): The method of claim 31 wherein the identification tag is fraud resistant.

Claim 38 (New): The method of claim 37 wherein the identification tag is self-destructing

Claim 39 (New): A system for remote verification, comprising:
an asset;
an identification tag adapted to be secured to the asset, the identification tag including an identifier associated with the asset;
a reader for reading the identifier of the identification tag;
a server;
a communications link between the server and the reader;
a database queryable by the server that associates the asset with the identification tag for remote verification;
an agreement between a first party and a second party, relating to the asset whereby the second party agrees to use the reader for reading the asset identifier associated with the asset and agrees to send information relating to the identifier to the server.

Claim 40 (New): The system of claim 39 wherein the asset is a vehicle.

Claim 41 (New): The system of claim 40 wherein the second party is a vehicle dealer.

Claim 42 (New): The system of claim 39 wherein the information relating to the identifier includes a hash.

Claim 43 (New): The system of claim 39 wherein the identification tag is fraud resistant.

Claim 44 (New): The system of claim 39 wherein the identification tag is self-destructing.

Claim 45 (New): The system of claim 29 further comprising: a second asset and a second identification adapted to be secured to the second asset, the second identification tag having a second identifier associated with the second asset, wherein the second asset is not subject to the agreement.

Claim 46 (New): A method for verifying compliance with an agreement associated with an asset wherein a party to the agreement maintains control over the asset under the agreement, comprising:

notifying the party of an audit of the asset;

requiring the party to electronically read at least one identification tag associated with the audit;

requiring the party to send audit information based on the at least one identification tag to the first party;

determining that the second party is complying or not complying with the agreement based on the audit information.

Claim 47 (New): The method of claim 46 wherein the asset is a vehicle.

Claim 48 (New): The method of claim 47 wherein the party to the agreement is a vehicle dealer.

Claim 49 (New): The method of claim 48 wherein the agreement is a financing agreement.

Claim 50 (New): The method of claim 49 wherein the at least one identification tag includes a radio frequency identification tag.

Claim 51 (New): The method of claim 49 wherein the at least one identification tag includes a bar code.

Claim 52 (New): The method of claim 46 wherein the audit information comprises a hash.

Claim 53 (New): The method of claim 46 wherein each of the at least one identification tag is fraud resistant.

Claim 54 (New): The method of claim 53 wherein each of the at least one identification tag is self-destructing.

Claim 55 (New): A method of remote auditing of at least one asset, comprising:
reading at least one identification tag physically attached to each of the at least one asset;
creating a hash based on information obtained from reading of the at least one identification tag;
sending the hash to a remote location;
determining the hash authenticates the at least one identification tag physically attached to each of the at least one asset.

Claim 56 (New): The method of claim 55 wherein the identification tag is fraud resistant.

Claim 57 (New): The method of claim 56 wherein the identification tag is self-destructing.

Claim 58 (New): The method of claim 55 wherein each of the at least one asset is a vehicle.

Claim 59 (New): The method of claim 55 wherein each of the at least one asset is financed.

Claim 60 (New): The method of claim 59 wherein each of the at least one asset is a vehicle.

Claim 61 (New): The method of claim 55 wherein the steps of reading, creating, and sending are performed by a party being financed and the step of determining is performed by a party providing financing.